



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Big Bend National Park
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Big Bend National Park News Release

BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK SUPERINTENDENT JOHN KING TO RETIRE

Big Bend National Park Superintendent John. H. King will retire from the National Park Service on June 2, 2006. Over the past 36 years, King has held a variety of positions at eight National Park Service sites, including tenures as superintendent of Virgin Islands National Park and Big Bend National Park.

"King will be greatly missed at Big Bend, both by our community and by our partners who have benefited from his knowledge and dedication," said David Elkowitz, Chief of Interpretation. King began his federal career in 1969, serving as a seasonal at the Natchez Trace Parkway while attending Mississippi State University. Upon graduation he secured a permanent position and subsequently served in park assignments at Blue Ridge Parkway, Chickamauga & Chattanooga National Military Park, Isle Royale National Park, Big Bend National Park (two separate tours), Colonial National Historical Park, Lake Mead National Recreation Area, and Virgin Islands National Park. King served a nine-year tour in the Intermountain Regional Office in Denver, first serving as the Associate Regional Director for Administration and then as the Deputy Regional Director.

"My career with the National Park Service has been a labor of love," said King. "I have lived in spectacular places and worked with some of the brightest, most capable and passionate people to be found anywhere."

Charles R Gregg, President of the Board of Directors, Friend of Big Bend National Park, said, "I thank John for his strong support and encouragement, good humor and good sense. A good working relationship between a partner of the park and its supervisor is essential, but should not be taken for granted. Our relationship with John has contributed significantly to the success of the Friends group, and can serve as a model for such relationships throughout the National Park system. John will be greatly missed and we wish him well."

"John King has been an extremely effective superintendent, the best I have worked with in my tenure, and we will hate to see him go. Both John and his wife Martha quickly made themselves valuable members of the Big Bend community and will be missed. We wish them the best of luck in their retirement and future endeavors," said Mike Boren, Executive Director, Big Bend Natural History Association.

King is married to the former Martha Ann Brown of Unity, Mississippi, who has been an active member and volunteer in each community in which they have lived. Married for 35 years, the Kings are the proud parents of three grown children: Jason, Joshua, and Jordan, and the grandparents of two (and soon to be three) grandchildren: Juliana and Caleb.

Following his retirement on June 2, John and Martha plan to settle in Las Vegas, Nevada.

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